



THURROCK YACHT CLUB

Promoting sailing in Thurrock

General Risk Assessment 2024 v 1.1

Thurrock Yacht Club is an unincorporated Community Amateur Sports Club. Members have responsibility for their own health and safety, but it is also in our collective interest to look out for the safety of others.

SPECIAL NOTICE – Keep Right

All TYC members are reminded that special byelaws apply on the tidal Thames. All vessels, including those under sail, are required to stay to the right of the fairway. Please apply common sense:

- Do not cross in front of large vessels
- Keep a lookout astern as well as ahead.
- If approaching a large vessel, make a prompt turn to starboard and get to the right side of the fairway. If you have a loud horn, sound one short blast, but in any case be clear and concise in your manoeuvres.
- If sailing in races or company, make other boats aware of large vessels on channel 37 (M).
- Consider making short tacks and go about midway across the fairway.
- Always carry a functioning VHF Radio and maintain a listening watch on London VTS, unless participating in an organised club event where another channel is prescribed.

Complying with rules reduces the chance of over enforcement being applied, and learning to sail within the constraints will make you a better sailor. For more information please visit the [PLA's Boating on the Thames website](#).

1. All activities whilst afloat

Hazard	Inherent risk	Benefits	Mitigation	Residual risk
1.1 General sailing related incidents, e.g. loss of mast, running aground, man overboard, engine failure etc.	Medium	<p>Sailing and water sports provide opportunity for physical activity across a wide range of ages.</p> <p>Research from the Royal Yachting Association suggests that watersports are highly beneficial for mental health.</p> <p>Sailing and boating is a challenging activity that builds confidence and teamwork.</p>	<p>Individual skipper/helm responsibility to assess own/crew/boat competency for prevailing and accepted conditions.</p> <p>Skippers/helms advised to have action plans/assessment/equipment suitable for their boat and to brief crew accordingly.</p> <p>Skipper/individual responsibility to ensure adequate means to raise alarm in event of incident and ensure boat has appropriate equipment in working order.</p> <p>Skipper / Individual responsibility to inform others of intentions before setting off.</p> <p>Skipper / individual responsibility to contact London VTS or Coast Guard on phone 999 in event of an emergency. Mayday and Pan Pan calls on VTS Channel.</p> <p>All private boats to provide proof of insurance prior to launching.</p>	Low
1.2 Drowning	High		<p>Wearing of personal flotation device (PFD) compulsory in all club boats and advisory on own boat.</p> <p>Appropriate clothing to be worn.</p> <p>Individual responsibility and awareness for assessing own competency for prevailing conditions.</p>	Low



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			Individual responsibility for sea worthiness of boats. Skippers/helms and crews should be familiar with man overboard recovery.	
1.3 Hypothermia / Death from cold shock.	High		Individual responsibility to assess prevailing conditions and wear appropriate clothing. Supply of spare clothing is kept in club.	Low
1.4 Serious injury	Medium		Individual responsibility to assess own competency for prevailing conditions. Individual responsibility for sea worthiness of boats. If event terminated, competitors advised by safety boat / vhf to return to shore/moorings	Low
1.5 Non racing collision leading to injury or boat damage.	Low		Individual responsibility to keep a proper lookout and have knowledge of Collision Regulations at Sea, and PLA byelaws.	Low
1.6 Risk of injury to other water users.	Medium		Individual responsibility to keep a look out for other water users, particularly rowers, kayakers and paddle boarders.	Low
1.7 Unsuitable / deteriorating conditions	High		Individual skipper/helm responsibility to assess own /crew/boat competency for prevailing conditions. Race Officer to consider postponement/shortening course. Course to be set to prevailing conditions.	Low
1.8 Infection from waterborne organisms/irritants.			Members and visitors advised to cover and open cuts or grazes, to wash hands before eating and to shower after sailing especially after if they have capsized / been in the water. Advised to see a doctor and tell the doctor that they have taken part in water sports if any flu like symptoms develop within 3 weeks, especially if the sailing activity took place on fresh water where there is increased risk of Weil's disease.	Low

2. Racing

Hazard	Inherent risk	Benefit	Mitigation	Residual risk
2.1 All hazards in section 1	As section 1	Racing equips sailors with skills and confidence for sailing in a number of conditions and on all points of wind.	As section 1. PLUS Vhf radio to be carried and tuned to prescribed channel.	Low
2.2 Collision whilst racing leading to injury or boat damage	High	The competitive element of racing is enjoyable and encourages people to get the most from the sport.	As section 1.5. Individual responsibility to abide by RRS. Race officer to set appropriate course for competitors.	Low
2.3 Failing to account for all competitors and crew after racing	Medium		Club to use signing on/off sheets and/or tally boards. Race Officer to notify VTS at start/completion of race.	Low
2.4 Serious injury whilst racing.	High		Ability of all boats, including safety boats, to summon emergency assistance via vhf.	Low



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			If event terminated, competitors advised by safety boat / vhf to return to shore/moorings.	
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3. Organised Dinghy Sailing

Hazard	Inherent risk	Benefits	Mitigation	Residual risk
3.1 All hazards in section 1 and 2	As section 1	<p>Dinghy sailing provides entry level opportunity for people to participate in sailing.</p> <p>It is a cost effective form of participation, and is a significant enabler to increasing diversity of participation.</p>	<p>As section 1. PLUS</p> <p>Wearing of personal flotation device is mandatory.</p> <p>Provision of appropriately equipped safety boats with competent helm (Powerboat L2 min) and crew.</p> <p>Racing postponed in adverse weather / river conditions</p>	Low
3.2 Boom injury	High		<p>Training involves boom awareness.</p> <p>Helmets available for those who wish to wear them.</p>	Low
3.3 Entrapment	Medium		<p>Safety boat on duty for all organised dinghy sailing activity.</p> <p>Mast floats to be used on heavier dinghies .</p>	Low

4. Safety and Trot Boats (if operated)

Hazard	Inherent risk	Benefits	Mitigation	Residual risk
4.1 All hazards in section 1	As section 1	<p>The use of safety boats is a mitigation that makes organized sailing activity, and particularly dinghy sailing, safer.</p> <p>Trot boats make the transfer of crews between shore and boat easier and faster.</p>	<p>As section 1.</p> <p>Only competent (RYA Powerboat 2 or equivalent) coxswains to operate safety boats.</p> <p>Mandatory use of kill cords when fitted to boats.</p> <p>Briefing of safety boat crew prior to use.</p> <p>Safety boats to be used in accordance with club policies.</p> <p>Vhf radios to be monitored for VTS / other river users.</p>	Low
4.2 Injury caused by contact with, or whilst boarding a safety or trot boat	Medium		<p>Course set to avoid crossing traffic lanes unless sufficient safety boat cover.</p> <p>Check vessel movements with VTS. Competitors reminded of club rules regarding river traffic.</p> <p>Race Officer and safety boats to maintain regular vhf radio contact.</p>	Low
4.3 Collision with commercial vessels/structures	Low			



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4.4 Engine failure / propeller fouled	Low		Engine / fuel checked prior to start. Oars/anchor checked. Keep lookout for floating debris.	Low
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5. Shoreside Risk

Hazard	Inherent risk	Benefits	Mitigation	Residual risk
5.1 Slips/trips and falls on foreshore, slipways, and yard	Medium	Shoreside facilities are essential for storing, accessing and maintaining boats.	Keep edges of wall clear and high fittings painted yellow. Ensure yard kept clear. Care taken when using ladders and walking on slipway.	Low
5.2 Injury caused when launching boats using club cranes and forklifts	Low		Only members instructed in the use of cranes / forklifts are permitted to use them. Correct use of slings. Trailers and trolleys returned to storage areas.	Low
5.3 Drowning/falling into water.	Low		Cadet members and children under 18 to be supervised when on premises, and advised to wear a buoyancy aid on the slipway or sea wall. Lifebelt /safety line available on foreshore.	Low
5.4 Fire in club house/ boat shed.	Low		Ensure electrical and gas appliances are switched off after use. Keep extinguishers available. Fuel correctly stored.	Low
5.5 Traumatic injury or health condition	Medium		999 to be called. Members are requested to declare any reasonable adjustments they may require on applying for membership, and requested to advise duty officer on the day if A first aid kit is stored in the club house There is a defibrillator mounted adjacent to the Bosun's cage. Members are recommended to take the RYA first aid course	Low
5.6 Injury incurred moving boats or other equipment	Medium		Members advised to maintain best practise for lifting, using legs rather back. Members to seek assistance to lift heavy weights	Low

6. Environmental Risk



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Hazard	Inherent risk	Benefits	Mitigation	Residual risk
6.1 Items lost overboard by boats participating in club events	Low	Maintaining a healthy and clean blue space not only benefits the club, but also the general public.	No specific mitigation applied. Participants encouraged to retrieve items but only if it is safe to do so	Low
6.2 Litter and detritus ejected into river from club premises due to adverse weather conditions or tides	Medium		No loose items to be left on the foreshore. Any loose items may be removed by the club and disposed of. Regular work parties to sweep foreshore	Low
6.3 Fuel or oil spillage	Low		Fuel correctly stored Club members requested to take care when refuelling. Club members requested to keep their engines, including outboards, maintained to prevent accidental oil leakage directly into sea, or indirectly via bilges.	Low
6.4 Close contact with marine mammals	Low		Members to set a course to avoid close contact with animal.	Low

Risk Matrix

	Likelihood	of Occurrence	Possible	Remote
Severity - Worst Case	Likely	Probable		
Fatality	High	High	Medium	Low
Major Injury	High	High	Medium	Low
Minor Injury	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
Environment / significant equipment damage	Medium	Medium	Low	Low

Important Contacts:

VHF Channels – distress calls to London VTS or Channel 16

Thurrock Yacht Club	Ch 37 / M
London VTS	Ch 68 (Sea Reach 4 to Crayfordness – includes TYC Clubhouse)
London VTS	Ch 69 (Outer Estuary to Sea Reach 4)
London VTS	Ch 14 (Crayfordness to Tower Bridge)

Telephone

Thurrock Yacht Club	01375 373 720
Lifeboat/Coastguard	999 (Distress only)
PLA Navigation Service Duty Officer	01474 560 311
PLA Harbour Master Gravesend	01474 562 212



PLA Notification for Club Events

Preamble

The DfT (Department for Transport) Port Marine Safety Code requires all Harbour Authorities to ensure that risk assessments are carried out to identify and minimise risks which may result in personal injury, or damage to property or the environment.

This includes events organised by yacht/sailing clubs. The risk assessment procedure is required to be submitted by the event organisers (in our case TYC) to the Port of London Authority (PLA)

Three risk assessment models are suggested by the RYA, providing for Major, Medium and Minor events.

A Major Event is one which is likely to have a major impact on the operation of the harbour, requiring special arrangements agreed in advance with the Harbour Authority, for which a full risk assessment should be prepared, in consultation where appropriate with the emergency services. Examples of such events are the Burnham Week Races.

A Medium Event is one having a noticeable impact on the operation of the harbour but for which the Harbour Authority would not need to consider special arrangements in advance, risk assessment form can be used.

A Small Event is one having little or no impact on the operation of the harbour and with minimal risks to non-participants. For these events, for which a formal risk assessment is inappropriate, a standard notification form can be used, whether for a one-off event, or a series of small events.

All Thurrock Yacht Club events are planned to avoid any impact on normal harbour operations and therefore meet the criteria of small events.



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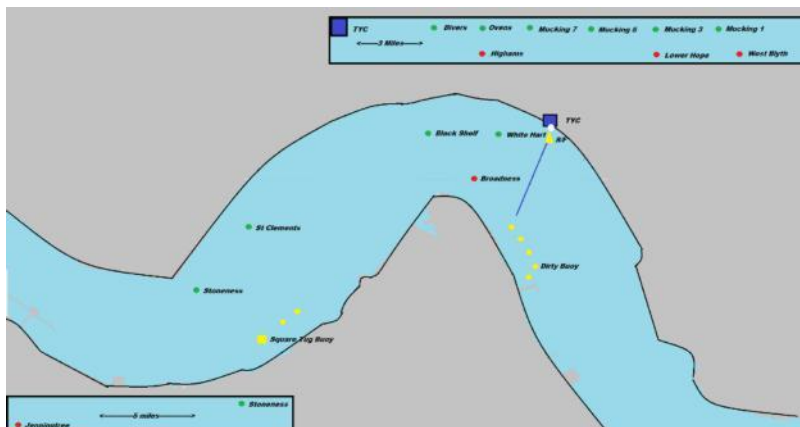
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Small Event – Club Cruiser Racing

Club:	Thurrock Yacht Club, Kilverts Wharf, Grays, RM17 6JF
Event:	All cruiser races as published in club schedule of races
Chief Race Officer:	Joe Pigg Email: sailing@thurrockyachtclub.org.uk Phone: 07785 335 018
Club Secretary:	Deb Carter Email: secretary@thurrockyachtclub.org.uk Phone: 07838 274 064
Operating Period:	1 st April to 31 October
Operating Area:	Tidal Thames between Jenningtree and West Blyth
VHF Channel	Ch 37 / M
Committee Call sign	Thurrock Race Control
Weather Restrictions	Between f2 and f6 (max gust f7) but always at Race Officers discretion Course set to match wind and tidal conditions.
Safety / escort boats	None
Club Telephone Number:	01375 373 720
Supporting Documents:	Sailing Instructions, Race Course

Date(s) of Events:	Thursday Evenings between 1900 and 2130, subject to daylight Saturdays – times as published in schedule
Event Website:	www.thurrockyachtclub.org.uk
Number of boats:	Between 2 and 15
Type or design:	Sailing yachts between 16' and 38' equipped with auxiliary engines and vhf radios
Additional Information:	Provisions of sections 1 and 2 of this risk assessment apply.
Authorities Contacted	London VTS contacted on channel 68 before each event to advise number of participants, course, and expected duration. London VTS contacted at end of event when all boats safely returned.

Sailing Area:





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Small Event – Club Dinghy Events

Club:	Thurrock Yacht Club, Kilverts Wharf, Grays, RM17 6JF
Event:	All dinghy races and “bob about” events as published in club schedule of events.
Chief Event Officer:	Barry Milton-White Email:dinghies@thurrockyachtclub.org.uk Phone: 07881 707 479
Club Secretary:	Deb Carter Email: secretary@thurrockyachtclub.org.uk Phone: 07838 274 064
Operating Period:	1 st March to 30 November
Operating Area:	TYC designated safe sailing area
VHF Channel	Ch 37 / M
Committee Call sign	Thurrock Yacht Club or Thurrock Race Control
Weather Restrictions	Between f2 and f5 (max gust f6) but always at Event Officers discretion Activities restricted to flood tides.
Safety / escort boats	Minimum 1, but normally 2 in operation
Club Telephone Number:	01375 373 720
Supporting Documents:	Sailing Instructions, Safe Sailing Area.

Date(s) of Events:	Dates as published on club schedule – activities always on a flood tide, aiming to finish at HW
Event Website:	www.thurrockyachtclub.org.uk
Number of boats:	Between 2 and 15
Type or design:	Sailing dinghies of various types, including but not limited to Wayfarers, Mirrors, RS Feva, Topper, GP14, Laser
Additional Information:	Provisions of sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this risk assessment apply.
Authorities Contacted	London VTS contacted on channel 68 before each event to advise number of participants and expected duration. London VTS contacted at end of event when all boats safely returned.

Sailing Area:

